Working Group Report on the development of Scheduled Castes during tbe Seventh .Five Year Plan

1144. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the finalisation of the working group Report on the Development of Scheduled Castes during the Seventh Five-Year Plan; and

(b) the manner in which the voluntary organisations have been associated in the foimulation of this Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Three meetings of the working Group for evolving the strategy of the Seventh Five-Year Plan for the Development of Scheduled Castes have been held. In these In these meetings, the various aspects of the Special Component Plan and the papers submitted by the various members of the Working Group which were received till then, have been discussed.

(b) Representatives of voluntary organisations are members of the Working Group.

Central Aid to curb dacoit menace in Madhya Pradesh ..

1145. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of May 16; 1984 under the caption 'Chambal Gangs Spread Terror", saying that dacoits had once again become quite active in and around the ravines of Chambal ;

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's latest assessment about the depredations of the dacoits in the area;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had sought any Central aid some time back for effectively curbing the dacoit menace in the ravines; and

(d) if so, what is the nature and extent of the central aid sought and extended so far and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Govts, have taken up a number of steps for effective action for liquidation of dacoits in Chambal Valley area. A working group has been set up in the Planning Commission to work out a long term socio-economic approach for combating the dacity problem. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have submitted a pilot project under Agriculture Forest and Public Works sectors for the year 1984-85 involving an outlay of Rs. 310.21 lakhs and the proposals are under examination in the Planning Commission.

Solving of border disputes between States

1146. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS b© pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to solve the boundry disputes between various States in the country;

(b) what are the impediments which have so far prevented Government in arriving at an amicable settlement of these boundary disputes; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to overcome these impediments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULART SINHA): (a) to (c) The boundary disputes between the following States involving territorial claims/counter-claims are pending:—

(i) Maharashtra and Kerala ;

(ii) Karnataka and Kerala;

(iii) Assam and Nagaland; and

(iv) Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

These disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and towards this end.

the Central Government will be glad to extend all assistanc$_e$ to them. It is not possible to lay down any time limit for resolving these matters.

Stateless people of Nepalese origin residing in Sikkim

1147. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA;
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state,-

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over thirty thousand stateless people of Nepalese origin in Sikkim; and

(b if so, what measures are being taken to grant them Indian citizenship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) A$_n$ order was issued on 16th May, 1975 under Section 7 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 providing that every person who immediately before 26th April, 1975 (date whe.$_n$ Sikkim became th$_e$ 22nd State of the Indian Union) was a Sikkim Subject under the Sikkim Subjects Regulation, 1961, would be deemed to have become a Citize$_n$ of India. Those who were not registered under th$_e$ aforesaid Regulation of 1961, or were not: eligible to be so registered are among the persons who may be regarded as stateless, unless they have a claim to any other nationality.

The claims of such persons for citizen-»hip are to be considered with due caution keeping in view the provisions of th$_e$ Citizenship Act, 1955.

Implementation of recommendations of .. .Pande Committee

1148. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased, to state by when the freight equalisation policy is likely to he implemented as recommended by the Pande Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRi N. K. P. SALVE): The modalities and time phasing of the withdrawal of freight equalisation scheme in respect of iron anj steel ar$_e$ being worked out in consultation with th$_e$ Ministries/Departments concerned. It is not possible at this stage to give a time schedule for its phasing out.

Prime Minister's visit to various foreign conntriei

1149. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will th$_e$ PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether »t is a fact that the Prime Minister visited a number of countries during the perioj from 1st lanuary; 1984 t$_0$ 30th June, 1984;

(b) if so, th$_e$ details and the outcome of those visits;

(c) the details of the talks held with dignitaries there, protocols signed and agreements arrived at;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a number of foreign dignitaries have met and held talks with the Prime Minister during the period from 1st January, 1984 to 30th June, 1984 when they visited this country; and

(e) if so, the details of the talks agreement arrived at and protocols signed in India and the result thereof?

THE MINISfRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prime Minister visited the Soviet Unio$_n$ fiom February 13—15, 1984 to attend the funeral of the late President Yuri Andropov. The opportunity was utilised to exchange views with the new Soviet leader Mr K Chernenko o$_n$ international affairs and matters of bilateral interest.

The Prime Minister visited Libya (April „ 7-8, 1984) and Tunisia (April 8-9, 1984) in response to long standing invitations. The discussions with the leaders of these two countries focussed on international $_t$ situation. particularly situation in West Asia, the Iran—Iraq war, and all the various aspects of bilateral relations. While in Tunisia, th$_e$ Prime Minister als$_0$ met Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the P.L.O. and Mr. Chedli Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League.

(d) Yes, Sir.